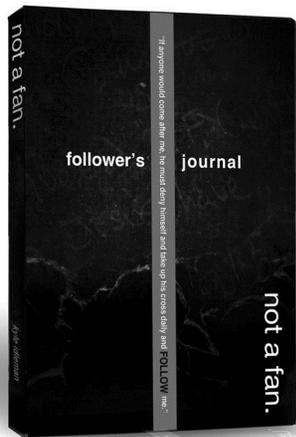


not a fan.

Twenty times in the New Testament, Jesus issued a compelling and challenging invitation to Follow Him. He's not interested in mere fans. He doesn't want enthusiastic admirers. He wants Completely Committed Followers.



This 6 week video study by Kyle Idleman utilizes a 42 day devotional journal to enhance your journey from fan to follower.

Journals are available for just **\$7** each.

Sign up at the Welcome Center today!

A limited number of the book on which the study is based is also available for **\$9** each. The book is an optional supplement to our study.



Contact Pastor Mike with questions
mike@flushingcommunity.org

Boost

Wednesdays | 6:30-8:00pm
April 23-May 28

THE PATH

I am the LIFE | April 6, 2014

When have you been willing to settle for a temporary imitation in place of something lasting and authentic?

"Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you." (John 6:27 ESV)

What comes to mind when you hear the words "eternal life"?

"And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." (John 17:3 ESV)

What do you do to regularly feed on the bread of life?

"As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. . . . Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." (John 6:57-58 ESV)

What part of your life that needs to die in order to more fully experience the life Jesus has for you?

"For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." (Luke 9:24 ESV)

It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.
(Philippians 1:20-21 ESV)



Miss Something? That's okay!
You can download this sermon at flushingcommunity.org



What is Lent? *The 40 day period of preparation before the celebration of the resurrection of Christ. The 40 days goes along with Jesus' 40 day temptation!*

Day #29: April 7 - Monday

WHO is Jesus? I AM the Gate

READ: *John 10:1-10; Isaiah 53:3-6*

It's difficult to understand Jesus' analogy, "I am the gate for the sheep," without an understanding of sheep pens in the Middle East. There are two types: public pens and wilderness pens. (This is only one of many differences between the Middle Eastern and western ways of raising sheep.)

Public sheep pens hold several flocks at a time, with the sheep of different flocks obviously intermingling with each other. When a shepherd is ready to leave the village to pasture his sheep, the gatekeeper opens the gate and the shepherd calls his sheep. His sheep follow; the rest stay, because sheep will only follow their own shepherd. They learn the sound of their shepherd's voice and will not follow someone else.

The wilderness is a dangerous place for sheep, primarily because they are truly helpless and profoundly simple (dumb!). Sheep can wander off, are easily lost and are incapable of defending themselves against predators. A wilderness sheep pen is simply a circular "wall" of rocks or branches with an opening for entering and exiting. There is no gate for this pen. At night, the shepherd literally lies down in the opening and becomes the gate. Nothing bad can get in and no sheep can wander off without the shepherd knowing about it. Isn't this a wonderful picture of Jesus?

Think About It:

Is Jesus your Shepherd? Or are you following someone else? Are you making an effort to learn and recognize the voice of your Shepherd? Are you following your Shepherd where He leads you, or are you wandering off? In what ways does Jesus act as "the Gate" in your life?

Day #30: April 8 - Tuesday

WHO is Jesus? I AM the Good Shepherd

READ: *John 10:11-18, 24-30; Psalm 23; Luke 15:1-7*

Sheep eat grass. Sheep drink water. It's not complicated. The shepherd is responsible to provide for them in every way: food, water, shelter, protection. Sheep won't drink from rushing streams, but only from calm waters, so their shepherd guides them to safe, calm water sources and the best pastures. Because sheep are so helpless, they are easy prey for wolves, bears or lions. Shepherds are the defenders of the flock, leading them to the safety of the sheep pen, protecting them from predators, and when necessary, putting themselves in harm's way to rescue the sheep. (In the account of David & Goliath [1st Samuel 17]: David refers to killing a lion and a bear to protect his flock.)

Flocks are often in remote pastures for long periods of time, with only their shepherd. Over time, the sheep learn to trust their shepherd, to know their voice, and to follow them anywhere. This bond is strong and is key to the survival of the flock.

Christ is our Good Shepherd, who knows what we need, who will provide for us in every way, and who has laid down His life to rescue us.

Think About It:

Are you relying on your Shepherd to provide for you? Are you able to discern His voice? Are you learning to trust Him? Is your trust growing so that you will follow Him wherever He leads you? How does your perspective on the 23rd Psalm change based on what you know about sheep?

Day #31: April 9 - Wednesday

WHO is Jesus? I AM the Resurrection and the Life

READ: *John 11*

Scripture is clear that there is more to your existence than just this life here on earth. There is something after. Where you spend your eternity will depend on one thing: what you do with the Man called Jesus Christ. For those who embrace Jesus as the Son of God, our Savior & Redeemer, there will be eternal life. For those who reject Jesus and the redemption He offers, there will be eternal death. Your choice.

Death feels like the end. It's difficult to see beyond it, because all we know is the "here and now." It's so final, so mysterious, so unknown, and for many, terrifying. For believers, physical death ends

your journey through this life, but opens up and whole new journey: resurrection life. Jesus, who raised Himself from the grave and conquered death itself, IS the Resurrection and the Life. Death is nothing to Him. It has no power over Him, and when our identity is in Christ, death has no power over us. Because Jesus is the Resurrection, we can view death through the lens of hope. Death is merely the passage from this life to the next.

There is no resurrection apart from Christ, there is no eternal life apart from Christ. Even this life, the "here and now," isn't all that it can be, apart from Christ.

Think About It:

Does the idea of dying terrify you?

How much anxiety would you experience if you were dropped off, alone, in the middle of a foreign city you'd never been to? How would it be different if you were with a dear friend, who'd been there before? How will embracing Jesus the Resurrection change your view of death?

Jesus' statement is not, "I'm the way of resurrection," but "I AM the resurrection." How does this statement shape your understanding of Jesus?

Day #32: April 10 - Thursday

WHO is Jesus? I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life

READ: *John 13:33-14:7*

Words mean things - even tiny words, like "the." Jesus says here, "I am THE way, THE truth and THE life." Notice what He did not say: I am A way, A truth and A life. "A" and "the": two tiny words, but two vastly different meanings.

The original Greek is more intense than our English translation. Jesus is saying...

ONLY I am the way... (The only path to heaven and eternal life)

ONLY I am the truth... (The origin of what is real, right and true)

ONLY I am the life... (The only source of real life, whether physical or spiritual.)

Jesus is not just one option, among many suitable alternatives. He is the One and Only.

Think About It:

Are you trying to work your way to heaven, or find a path other than Jesus?

What "untruths" have taken hold in your head or your heart? Christ, the Truth, wants to restore what is true.

Are you living life as Christ intended? Free from guilt, shame, full of joy & blessing?

Day #33: April 11 - Friday

WHO is Jesus? I AM the Vine

READ: *John 15:1-8*

Spring IS coming. Spring means it's time to plant your garden. Whether you like to grow flowers, fruits or vegetables, it all pretty much works the same. Peppers grow on a pepper plant, tomatoes on a tomato plant, and watermelons on a watermelon vine. You can't just grow a watermelon by itself. It has to grow on a vine. The vine is what feeds the watermelon, supplying nourishment so it can grow. When the bunny in your yard gnaws it off, the baby watermelon dies because it's been cut off from its source of nutrition. The vine can't do anything to make the watermelon grow when it's been detached.

It's no different in our spiritual life. If we are to bear fruit, we must stay connected to Jesus, the Vine.

When we are attached to Him, we will grow and be spiritually fruitful. When we disengage from the Vine, we will be fruitless and wither spiritually. Jesus says, "Apart from me, you can do nothing."

Think About It:

How do we stay connected to the Vine?

What things in your life threaten to gnaw at your connection to Jesus?

What kind of fruit do you produce when you're on your own, not connected to the Vine?

What fruit have you seen produced in your life as a result of being connected to Jesus?

Has the Spirit "pruned" things in you that inhibited the growth of good fruit?

Day #34: April 12 - Saturday

WHO is Jesus? I AM the Alpha and Omega

READ: *Revelation 1:8, 21:6-8, 22:12-17, Philippians 1:6*

Alpha and Omega (ΑΩ) are the first and last letters of the classical Greek alphabet; basically, our "A to Z". Jesus was at the beginning; He will be at the end, and everything in between.

Tomorrow, the "I AM" rides into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. The cheers of Hosanna will turn to shouts of, "crucify him!" in a few short days.

There was no one before Him; there will be no one after Him. Jesus started it; Jesus will finish it. Jesus was, Jesus is, Jesus will be. I AM.

Think About It:

How has your perspective on Jesus expanded as you've examined "I AM?"

Faith in Christ is the beginning of our salvation; how is He working in you to bring it to completion?

As you think about the coming events of Holy Week, will you see Jesus as victim, martyr, victor or something else?

April 13 - Sunday Sabbath Celebrations at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM